

REMARKS

The Office Action of October 8, 2004, has been carefully considered as follows.

Claim 18 has been amended to correct a typographical error wherein "screw residing in the taper threaded hole" is herein replaced with "a screw residing in the taper threaded hole." No new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

The Office Action objected to Claim 19 stating that the term "national pipe taper" is unclear. Claim 19 is herein amended to replace "the taper threaded hole is a National Pipe Taper (NPT) threaded hole, and the screw is an NPT threaded screw," with "the taper threaded hole is a pipe threaded hole and the screw is a pipe threaded screw." Applicant believes that Claim 19 is now clear and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this objection and advance Claim 19 towards allowance.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-13 and 16-19 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by MacCormack (US Parent No. 3,008,741). The original Claim 1 includes the limitations:

"a taper threaded hole centered on the slice"; and

"a screw may be advanced into the taper threaded hole to spread the first finger portion of the arm from the second finger portion of the arm."

The relationship of the taper threaded hole centered on the slice is shown in FIG. 11 and described in paragraph 38 of the original application. MacCormack does

not describe a taper threaded hole centered on the slice, or that a screw may be advanced into the taper threaded hole to spread fingers. Specifically, MacCormack describes a tapped hole 12 perpendicular to the slot 10 in column 3 lines 41-44. The tapped hole 12 is not tapered. The opening 13 of MacCormack appears tapered in MacCormack FIG. 6, but is merely a screw access hole in the tubing 5, not part of the threaded hole 12 in the leg 8, and only appears tapered because of the specific view. Further, the design of McCormack would not work with a taper thread, just as the present invention would not work without a taper thread. Because MacCormack does not describe all the limitations included in Claim 1, Applicant believes that Claim 1 is in allowable form, and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection to Claim 1, and advance Claim 1 toward allowance.

Because Applicant believes Claim 1 is in condition for Allowance, and because Claims 2 through 17 depend from Claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection to Claims 2-17, advance Claims 2 through 17 toward allowance.

The original Claim 18 includes:

"a taper threaded hole approximately centered on the slice"; and

"a screw residing in the taper threaded hole and spreading the first finger portion of the arm from the second finger portion of the arm to hold the tubing securely on the arm."

The relationship of the taper threaded hole centered on the slice is shown in FIG. 11 and described in paragraph 38 of the original application. MacCormack does not describe a taper threaded hole approximately centered on the slice, or that a screw may be advanced into the taper threaded hole to spread fingers. Specifically, MacCormack describes a tapped hole perpendicular to a slot. Further, the design of

McCormack would not work with a taper thread, just as the present invention would not work without a taper thread. Because MacCormack does not describe all the limitations included in Claim 18, Applicant believes that Claim 18 is in allowable form, and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection to Claim 18, and advance Claim 18 toward allowance.

Because Applicant believes Claim 18 is in condition for Allowance, and because Claim 19 depends from Claim 18, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection to Claim 19 and advance Claim 19 toward allowance.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected Claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over MacCormack (US Parent No. 3,008,741). The original Claim 20 includes the limitation:

"tightening a taper threaded screw residing in a taper threaded hole in the arm"

MacCormack does not recite tightening a taper threaded screw into a taper threaded hole. Because tightening a taper threaded screw into a taper threaded hole is a limitation of Claim 20, and is an important aspect of the present invention, Applicant believes that the original Claim 20 is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection to Claim 20, and advance Claim 20 toward allowance.

CONCLUSIONS

Claims 1- 20 remain pending. Claim 18 has been amended to correct a typographical error and Claim 19 has been amended to address an objection to the recitation of "national pipe taper." Because the independent Claims 1, 18, and 20 all include a limitation directed to a tapered thread, which tapered thread is an important aspect of the present invention, Applicant believes that all the claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner advance Claims 1- 20 to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K L Green', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

KENNETH L. GREEN
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 44,724

Averill & Varn
8244 Painter Avenue
Whittier, CA 90602
(562) 698-8039